being taken by Indian Railways to minimize incidence of accidents include adoption of suitable modern technology for interlocking and signalling system, upgradation of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of over-aged assets, upgradation of training aids like simulators, checks on observance of safety precautions and provision of Anti Collision Device.

Shortage of drivers and engines

2176. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the goal of transporting 700 million tonnes of cargo a year by the Railways, has run into rough weather owing to acute shortage of drivers and engines;

(b) if so, the estimated requirement, availability and shortage of drivers and railway engines; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to make good the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur broad gauge line

2177. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for construction of Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new broad gauge railway line;

(b) whether Government are aware that this line is very vital for development of Bastar region inhabited by tribals; and

(c) if so, how long it would take to complete the project and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new line project is to be

implemented on cost-sharing basis and State Government of Chhattisgarh is also one of the parties.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The first phase of this railway line, i.e., Dallirajahara-Rowghat, is to be constructed entirely at the cost of M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL). M/s SAIL has not yet deposited the cost of this part-project with the Railways for want of necessary forestry clearance. As such, the work has not yet been taken up. No target date of completion for Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new line project has been fixed.

Introduction of CNG engines in local and suburban routes of Delhi and Mumbai

2178. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost effective CNG engines are expected to be introduced on local and suburban routes in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trial runs have been conducted successfully by the Northern Railway; and

(d) how far it would prove cost effective and result in saving?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Trials are being conducted to run one Diesel Multiple Units (DMU) with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) on Northern Railway. Its further proliferation depends on successful trials.

(d) Operating cost of Compressed Natural Gas based Diesel Multiple Units is expected to be 25% less than diesel based Diesel Multiple Units.

Wheel factory at Chhapra

2179. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to use all its scrap for proposed Chhapra Wheel and Axle Factory:

(b) when this factory is likely to begin its operation;